

Maynard Finance Committee
Zoom Meeting ID:885 8642 7586
Final 1/11/21

Present: Tom Black, Elliot Bruce, Peter Campbell, Ken Estabrook (Chair), Alannah Gustavson, Kelly Kane, Jillian Prendergast (Vice Chair)

Absent: None

Others: Greg Johnson, Natasha Rivera, Lydia Clancy, concerned citizens

All relevant documents available on board docs.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. Ken went over the legal remote meeting notice. This meeting was not recorded.

Ken shared the Dec 14th meeting minutes on the screen. Tom motioned to approve, Jill seconded. Vote 7-0 to approve.

Ken went over the agenda for the meeting.

Chair Updates

Ken sent an email letting the Committee know that the Charter Review Committee will be forming soon and Fincom needs to send 2 people to represent Fincom, they don't necessarily have to be Fincom members. Ken asked Peter to talk about his experience with the process. Peter explained how the meetings worked and what he expected the review to entail. There was discussion on interest within the Committee.

Ken shared the ATM Articles Draft (posted on Board Docs under BOS).

Ken asked Greg about the 'Place Holder' articles for Water/Sewer. These are from Justin Demarco and are concerning rate changes and upgrades to treatment plant #4.

Ken asked about the Sterling Golf article and Greg clarified that any contract over 3 years must go to Town Meeting; their contract is up and anticipated to go at least 3 years, likely 5. There was some discussion about whether the issue of keeping the land as a golf course should be raised more broadly. Peter noted that when the land was purchased by the town it wasn't necessarily intended to remain a golf course in perpetuity.

Ken asked if there were other articles coming through. Greg said there were zoning additions and some other articles yet to be drafted.

There was discussion about using CPA funds in a more coordinated way across committees and departments in order to make use of CPA monies where applicable to reduce budget shortfalls.

FY21 Budget

Greg reiterated there was a lot of personnel turnover. He is hoping to have a new Treasurer/Collector by the end of the month. There is a finalist for Library Director. Mike Guzzo is still doing 2 days a week for the town to help finish the budget and continue some ongoing needs.

Kelly asked how the school budget was tracking. Lydia reported that they are mostly on target. Natasha added that the FY21 numbers were just finalized. There are some staffing changes that may need to occur due to DESE requirements on asynchronous versus synchronous learning time.

FY22 Budget

Ken shared the latest budget revision sheet. Greg said the school department request is high and will likely need to be cut. He believes the liability insurance assessment is going to be a bit high as well. Overall the budget is still in the red. Ken then shared Greg's Budget Development Status notes. He explained the places he originally proposed in the town budget that will now need to be cut, and his recommended reduction of the school budget. There was discussion about the school budget increase of 9% and its relation to the restrictions of Prop 2 ½. Elliot asked to clarify if that was a historically large increase. Consensus was yes, and Peter believes generally the increase they end up with is somewhere between 4-6%. The topic of level budget versus level service in the schools was clarified. Ken added that unfunded requests compound over time. There was also discussion of how to put forward override requests to the Town Meeting, with regards to responsibilities for doing so and the BOS's role.

Peter requested that the topic of a deputy fire chief addition be discussed further as we continue budget discussions.

Fincom Budget Message for February Joint Budget Review

Ken shared our Pitch Deck from the last Town Meeting. He asked for clarification from the Committee on how they would like to proceed. Peter would like to see our multi-year strategy continue to be pushed for. Ken then shared our Pitch Deck for the February joint meeting from last year. Everyone agreed the pandemic has changed a lot in terms of planning. Tom made a suggestion to bring up the point about committees working together for funding options, as in the CPA. Alannah asked some clarifying questions about debt exclusions versus operational overrides to be sure which one would be used if the schools needed additional funding. Jill suggested perhaps a 5 year plan, especially given the pandemic, is a big ask, and we should perhaps try for a 3 year plan.

Upcoming meeting

Ken asked if the School Committee would like some time to discuss their budget with us before the joint meeting, and including Brian Haas. Lydia said she would ask him for his availability. There was discussion about what Fincom would like to see from the School Committee to be helpful. Consensus was to be able to get a smaller breakdown than is available in the Town Report, and to see the difference in budgets versus actuals, and understand the drivers behind these decisions.

Ken would like Committee members to come to the next meeting with points they would like to make to the Joint Budget Review meeting.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Elliot 2nd. Vote 7-0 to close at 9:23pm.

FinCom Reserve FY21

Approved at Town Meeting, Article 13: \$250,000.00

Potential Reserve Fund transfers; approved by BOS:

Police Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	35,908.00
Police Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	16,699.00
Fire Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	33,562.56